REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

The presently pending claims are generally directed to an elastic nonwoven web comprising fibers formed from a composition having a blend of two components wherein one of the two components comprises an elastomeric polyolefin having a density of less than **0.870 g/cm^3** and the other of the two components comprises a nonelastomeric polyolefin having a density of at least 0.890 g/cm^3.

In the Office Action, claims 9-15 and 17-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,382,631 to Stehling et al. in view of EP 0 600 482. However, Applicant's respectfully submit that Stehling et al., either alone or in combination with EP 0 600 482 (EP '482), does not teach or suggest certain limitations of the presently pending claims.

Applicants note that in order to establish prima facie obviousness, all of the claimed limitations must be taught or suggested in the prior art. See, e.g., MPEP § 2143.03.

In this regard, the current Office Action states that "the previous action incorrectly cited Stehling as teaching the plastomer component can have a density of 0.88-0.900 g/cc but Stehling actually teaches 0.85-0.900, which encompasses the claimed values of less than 0.870 g/cc." However, Applicants have searched Stehling et al. in earnest and simply cannot locate any teaching or suggestion for the 0.85 g/cc range that the Office Action describes.[1] Indeed, throughout the specification of Stehling et al., the only references to plastomer blend components are described as having a density range of about 0.88-0.900, which is clearly outside of the claimed range. See, Col. 4, lines 45-47 and Col. 21, lines 60-64. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Stehling et al. does not teach an elastomeric polyolefin having a density of less than 0.870 g/cm^3 as required by the presently pending claims.

Furthermore, Stehling et al. does not suggest the use of an elastomeric polyolefin having a density of less than 0.870. In fact, in example 5 as cited by the Examiner, the

[1] Applicants were not able to even find the numeral ".85" using a word search of the Stehling et al. patent as it appears on the USPTO Patent Full-Text Image Database.

plastomer has a density of 0.884 g/cc. As discussed in the previous response, it would not be reasonable to assume that one of ordinary skill in the art would look to Stehling et al. for the use of an elastomeric polyolefin having a density of less than 0.870. In that regard, Stehling et al. describes plastomer blend components in the density range of from about 0.88-0.90 g/cc, or a difference of 0.02 g/cc. It is simply not reasonable given the very narrow density range described in Stehling et al. that one would modify the range by greater than half of the density range described to arrive at the presently pending claims. Thus, Stehling et al. fails to teach or suggest the presently pending claims.

In addition, the Office Action states that Stehling et al. describes a composition in Example 2 where the components are present in amounts of 75 and 25 percent. Again, Applicants are unable to find where Example 2 describes an elastomeric polyolefin component present in an amount from about 90% to about 50% and a nonelastomeric polyolefin component present in an amount from about 10% to about 25%. Indeed, the Office Action appears to acknowledge this fact by stating that "Stehling does not specifically describe the particular amounts of each component of the blend."

In an apparent attempt to remedy this deficiency, the Office Action states that "EP '482 teaches a composition comprising a blend of a first ethylene alpha olefin which is present in an amount of 50-99% by weight having a density of 0.87-0.92 g/cc and a low density polyethylene with a density of 0.915-0.930 g/cc which is present in an amount of 2-50% by weight." It is stated that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have employed the components of Stehling in the proportions set forth by EP '482." However, as discussed above, the so-called "components of Stehling" do not have a density of less than 0.870 g/cm^3 as required by the presently pending claims but, rather, a density range of from about 0.88-0.90 g/cc. As the EP '482 reference does not remedy the deficiencies of Stehling et al., it is respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims patentably define over the cited references.

In summary, Applicants submit that the presently pending claims are patentably distinct over the cited references and are in complete condition for allowance. Should

any issues remain after consideration of this response, however, than Examiner Cole is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at her convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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